

Tom Butler
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Etheric Studies Occasional Update 9

Tom Butler, February 2021

(Also at <https://us9.campaign-archive.com/?u=2a3697b42434b0f7a617d38bc&id=951b3d37fc>)



Going to the Sun Highway in Glacier Park, Montana. Much of who we are is defined by what we cherish. As we shepherd natural America, so must we shepherd society. Photo by Tom and Lisa Butler

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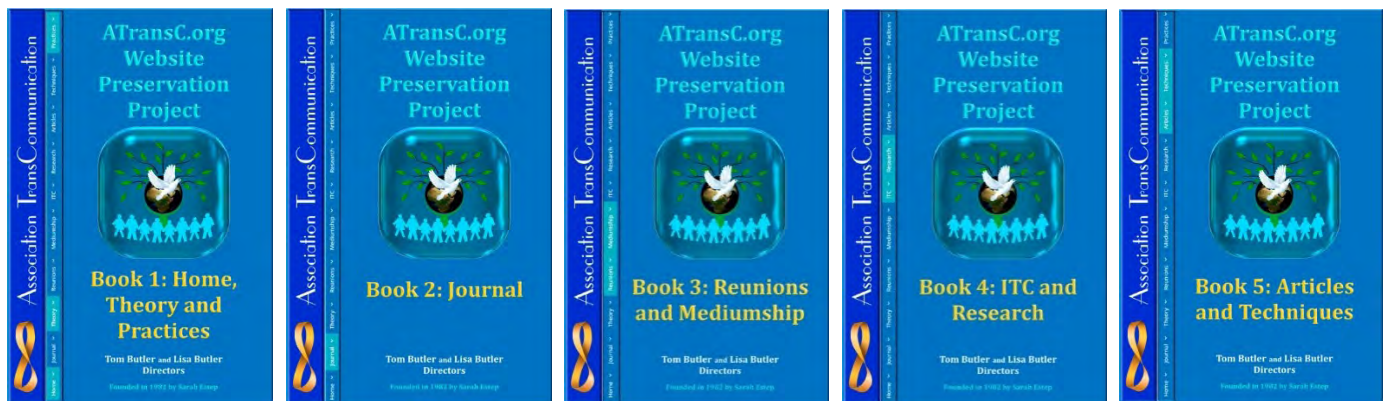
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ATransC.org Website Preservation Project



From the back cover of the books:

Why Preservation



Civilization began with the ability of citizens to preserve community understanding and to convey that understanding to the next generation. The needs of the paranormalist community are no different. Unless we are able to convey what we have learned to the next generation, we are doomed to the fate of religions rather than the progression of science.

While we are not saying the future needs what we have learned via the Association TransCommunication and its members. We are saying that we have an obligation to the future to at least make lessons learned available.

These five books represent a digest of what we feel will be most useful to the future. When we grow too old to continue, the Association will go away, along with the website. Until then, use the website. After then, we offer these books.

To Assure Future Availability of Lessons Learned

Sarah Estep started the Association as the American Association Electronic Voice Phenomena (AA-EVP) in 1982. Lisa and I assumed leadership of the Association in 2000. That was when we added a website to support our public outreach. The articles on the website have mostly been selected from the NewsJournal and are intended to give the website visitor a sense of the nature of ITC. Even with time, they have remained relevant to your self-education.

As a member supported organization, we had a lot of help from members, especially to guide the Big Circle. However, our attempts to attract people to help us with operation of the group were not so successful. It may be that we are not particularly good with people, but more likely, it is because I was always such a stickler for credibility.

For instance, some of the people we considered recruiting as board members have since become advocates of radio-sweep for EVP. Our studies have shown that radio-sweep probably does not produce EVP, so you can see that they would have become a problem for us.

We are older now. I am nearing 78 and could be healthier. The prudent thing for us to do is to arrange now for the future eventuality of our transition. Our first effort to assure the continuity of the Association was to arrange to transfer assets to a similar organization. As it turned out, the ones we contacted were happy to take our money but were not interested in maintaining the website or making sure the stories remained available to the public. On close examination, ITC practitioners are not their audience.

We considered a group of people who wanted to start an ITC museum, but two things happened. One is their preference for radio-sweep and their tendency toward pareidolia. The other is their intention to adopt a famous ITC name as their own, thus possibly corrupting the future history of that original organization. Mindful of our pledge to provide the most correct information we could, we gave up on that approach.

We then considered a university archive. While we had an agreement with an excellent archive, close examination of how people would find the material made it clear that we were putting it out of normal reach for our target audience.

It is worth reminding you that, while the website has selected articles, the 129 quarterly NewsJournals represent the Association's entire body of work. It is a history of progress, changing theories and practices for ITC that began in 1982 and ended with our final issue in the Spring of 2014 with issue: 33-1.

All of the NewsJournals are on ATransC.org as free downloadable PDF files. We are considering way to preserve them, but that is tomorrow's project. Bill Weisensale's [Spirit Voices](#) are also on the archive.

Archive Books

As it turns out, Amazon will host and market our books without a catalog fee. As we understand their policies, once the books are published on their website, we could go away and the books would remain available indefinitely. It is relatively easy to prepare both paperback and eBook version. This is something I am able to do.

The ATransC.org web pages have been compiled into five books—both paperback and eBook versions. The eBook version is Kindle formatted, but Kindle readers are free for every platform. The books are priced near the minimum required by Amazon. All profits are assigned to the Association for maintenance, public outreach and possible research.

When we transition, our wills will direct that the ATransC assets are assigned to a similar organization. We have one in mind, but nothing has been arranged. It might end up being a surprise. Our recommendation will be that the website be integrated with that organizations work or simply closed. The organization will own the books as 501 (c)(3) nonprofit assets.

Remember that, until ATransC.org is closed, all of the material is available on the website for free.

All of the books published under the AA-EVP Publishing banner are the property of the ATransC. Proceeds go to the Association and the books Lisa and I have written will be transferred with the Association when we move on. Right now, sales are essentially nonexistent, mainly I think, because of lack of publicity. It is unlikely you will ever see a positive review from one of the parapsychological organizations, so we are on our own. If you read one of the books and find it useful, please consider mentioning it to others. Perhaps a review would help.

Should Psychology Really Go Beyond the Ontological Debate?

As well as I can tell, the excellent *Journal of Exceptional Experiences and Psychology* was started by a doctoral student. I think she only published twelve issues. Some of the articles were very good.

Generally speaking, there are three ideological camps in parapsychology. One is Anomalistic Psychology which seeks to prove things paranormal are illusion, fraud or normal mistaken as paranormal. The smallest group of the three is parapsychologists who argue the validity of survival. The largest camp is Exceptional Experiences Psychology which argues that Anomalistic Psychologists are largely right, but in some cases, psi functioning does occur as a natural human ability that is entirely physical. (It is the survival researchers who sometimes argue psychic ability might be evidence of survived personality.)

The first issue in 2013 included an essay by Jean-Michel Abrassart titled. "Paranormal Phenomena: Should Psychology Really Go Beyond the Ontological Debate?" It is an interesting read if only because Abrassart argues that researchers need to make their personal point of view clear in their work.

From my experience, people trying to be academic think it is bad form to take a side. Yet, we all know that they are going to be biased, at least a little. It is dishonest to not warn their readers about their bias.

It also tends to waste time in conversations. Sometimes it is impossible for me to tell if parapsychologists are seriously considering survival or if they are being evasive about their intention to debunk survival. I, as a layperson, am not going to change their mind. I can learn more talking to scientists who have seriously considered such possibly survival-related phenomena as ITC.

The article is now at academia.edu/3715042/

For Whom do I write?

I recently posted this in the Idea Exchange and on Facebook:

We tread a narrow path as we seek lucidity. On the one side is delusion. On the other is ignorance. Only the middle way takes us to understanding. That is the proverbial "Razor's Edge."

I am finding the above especially true for my writing. I am an ordained NSAC Spiritualist -- even an NSAC National Spiritualist Teacher. Yet, I find the smallest part of my audience are Spiritualists. I must conclude by their silence that Spiritualists are not particularly interested in my work.

Since most people are equally uninterested, I must begin to wonder about my sanity. Am I deluded? Are my essays nonsensical? A rational person would arrive at the understanding that I have nothing of value to offer.

This is especially troubling for me since NSAC Spiritualists claim to be the science, philosophy and religion of continuous life. I write about the science and philosophy of our spiritual nature. My most obvious audience should be spiritualists.

So, I ask, can anyone give me feedback that might help me understand how I am missing the point? Should I just give up and go fishing?

We tend to live in information bubbles. Consider, for instance, your choice of news source. If you like CNN, it is doubtful you know the latest conspiracy theories propagated by the conservative outlets. Conversely, conservatives probably seldom hear the truth according to CNN. We tend to turn toward what we understand to be true.

I will admit that I work in an intellectual vacuum. I am often critical of parapsychologists for what I perceive as failure to help the lay community. I do this mostly alone. My guess is that it is easier to ignore me, while it would be necessary for them to answer to complaints from many people.

That is why I am writing about this now. The last thing I am looking for is pity, condolences or nice words of encouragement. The general contraction of parapsychological research is not because these phenomena are not real. Understanding them would provide considerable benefits to all of us. Without community support it is not happening.

To help, self-educate. Ask questions. Express an opinion. Support your local researcher and citizen scientist. It does not matter if you believe in nonsense. What matters is if you cannot justify that believe with rational, demonstrable facts we can share.

New Technique for Visual ITC?



[Deb Booth](#) pasted this picture to her FaceBook page. I will not edit the picture to make the point, as some practitioners prefer we do not. But, if you spend time using photo editor tools to change lighting of the frame, you might notice that there are face-like shapes in nearly every region. Look closely at the region in the middle, along a lower-left to upper-right line. These are Class C examples and would not normally be shared. The reason I am sharing the example here is to make the point that the expected holographic effect of transform visual ITC is present.

In fact, I cannot make out any of the faces in the version of the picture supported in this update. [The version posted by Deb is here.](#)

Deb said she collected the example using [SPIRITUS Ghost Box](#). It has a video tool that produces a rapidly changing display of optical noise. The vender, *Chill Seeker*, told me that they use a “randomized 3D particle system with added light source.”

As I understand the technology, the computer routine plots dot in the display, rather than drawing lines or changing fields. By biasing the routine so that the next dot conforms to a ruleset, it is possible to create convincing clouds, water, even steam. In such technologies, the randomness of the next dot selection would be influenced by the communicator. If so, this is a departure from the apparent stochastic amplification we think is part of video-loop ITC.

Deb's example is the first all-digital display I have seen with good color, possibly appropriate color and a holographic effect of multiple faces. A lot of resolution is lost as an example is moved from one display to another, so what you see may be a little different. These are not clearly defined faces. Just the hint of faces is enough for me to be excited by this technology.

I downloaded SPIRITUS Ghost Box but have yet to replicate the kind of display shown by Deb. I still have not figured out how to “grab” samples of the display. As I understand it, there are cellphone apps that will grab the screen as a picture. *Chill Seeker* said he uses the cellphone as a display and records it with a second video camera in the same way we record for video-loop. Just remember that every device or program between the original display and your final example reduces the resolution and possibly adds more ITC.

It would be ideal to have an app for Windows desktop that uses a 3D particle system and includes the ability to change all of the settings and grab features. Anyone know of one?

In my opinion, this approach has important implications for future ITC. Ideas?

I would like to open a discussion with people who are familiar with the technology and perhaps people who have tried other but similar approaches. With that in mind, I have posted this on the Idea Exchange at coop.ethericstudies.org/visual-itc-visual-itc/all-digital-itc-using-3d-generator/#post-2267

Please Don't Feed the Skeptics

I found this on the [Society for Psychical Research](#) Facebook page:

From *Science-Based Medicine*

At sciencebasedmedicine.org/psychic-mediums-and-grieving-children/

By Steven Novella – February 3, 2021

Title: [Psychic Mediums and Grieving Children](#)

About the author from the website:

Founder and currently Executive Editor of Science-Based Medicine Steven Novella, MD is an academic clinical neurologist at the Yale University School of Medicine. He is also the host and producer of the popular weekly science podcast, *The Skeptics' Guide to the Universe*, and the author of the *NeuroLogicaBlog*, a daily blog that covers news and issues in neuroscience, but also general science, scientific skepticism, philosophy of science, critical thinking, and the intersection of science with the media and society. Dr. Novella also has produced two courses with *The Great Courses*, and published a book on critical thinking - also called *The Skeptics Guide to the Universe*.

About the article

After talking about the complications of grief counseling, the author introduces his complaint:

This is why it is disturbing when self-proclaimed psychic mediums insert themselves into the grieving process, especially when children are involved. Alleged medium Thomas John, for example, is planning a [Zoom group "spirit circle"](#) for children who have lost loved ones. Grieving children are a doubly vulnerable population, and such an event can only be described as exploitative. There is also tremendous potential for harm.

Here is my comment from the SPR Facebook page

As an ordained Spiritualist and certified Spiritualist medium, I have given many "spirit greetings" during Spiritualist meetings. With that said, I agree that there is a problem with expectation management and overreach of the medium.

At the same time, the quality of mediumship follows the natural distribution from wannabe to competent. I can say the same of the doctors I see at the VA. The thing with beginner mediums is that they need practice to become competent mediums.

There is a substantial foundation of research and considerable anecdotal evidence that at least some mediums are able to deliver meaningful reassurance and accurate evidence from the supposed communicator. We must remember that mediums have good days and some sitters are easier to work with than others. I, myself, have discounted mediumistic message intended for me, only to realize their significance days later.

The article is simple anti-survival propaganda that needs to be answered. Psychologists tend to be our greatest detractors. I have a high degree of confidence that the author is (probably) uninformed about what is known about mediumship.

The author gave the usual red herring: "*we must remember that there is no evidence that any self-proclaimed medium is legitimate.*" So obviously parroting mainstream skeptic claims negates much of what he has to say.

The author asked: "*can anything be done to stop such exploitation?*" This is a red flag our community should pay attention to. Consider the witch hunt the FDA went on with Wilhelm Reich. If our community does not self-regulate, the government will do it for us. See wilhelmreichmuseum.org/.../biography-of-wilhelm.../

After watching the way many members of the ATransC dealt with the loss of loved ones, I am convinced that acceptance of possible continuous life has important grief management benefits. Religions and science tend to be misleading about survival. A little firsthand contact with possible discarnate personalities goes a long way toward letting the grieving person know their loved one is okay and so they will be okay. That, I expect, under the guidance of experienced practitioners.

I do not know this Thomas John and I am not a fan of shopfront mediumship. The fact that he is a television personality does not mean he is not an able medium. It is not for us to tell a member of our community that they can or cannot do public demonstrations. I also have no problem with people being paid for their services.

The solution I would support is testing for ability, ethics and understanding of local laws. Without a minimum degree of community self-regulation, it is probably only a matter of time before the government will step in.

It is important to remember that, to a vested skeptic like this, everything paranormal is fraudulent. The problem is that the skeptic community is well-organized. They have the ear of government. One of their successful public relations campaigns is to brand the study of anything paranormal as pseudoscience while convincing governments and mainstream academia that pseudoscience is a danger to society.

Mediumship is a well-established form of transcommunication. However, probably the majority of people who claim to be mediums could stand a little more training and practice. For sure, we have seen many would be

mediums show up at Spiritualist Society meetings expecting to be a star, yet unable to demonstrate the most rudimentary understanding or ability. When we do not give them candid feedback, we tend to prove the skeptics right.

The same goes for EVP and visual ITC. These are technology-based practices that produce examples able to be witnessed by others. Yet, we see more and more New Age nonsense creep into the practices. Such concepts as ascended masters, angle guides and fate may have some validity, but without a context of rational study and supporting research, the concepts are just fodder for the skeptics.

Why Should You Care

My point is that all of us need to be aware of how we look to mainstream society. You are representing all of us if you post comments or examples in any public way. The public does not distinguish between you and the rest of us. If you sound airy-fairy, all of us will be seen as wackos.

These are real phenomena, most of which with good supporting research. But they are not articles of belief. Examine how you talk about them. I have written thousands of words about these phenomena, survival metaphysics and the community on ethericstudies.org/. Educate yourself. Ask questions using the [Contact Tool](#) or perhaps on the [Idea Exchange](#).

Thank You

It is Springtime in the USA as we emerge from a dark period for our country. We appear to have found a way to stop the Covid-19 pandemic. Our newly elected government seems intent on helping citizens recover economically. Imagine, the USA government running on an all-electric vehicle fleet! Just taking climate change seriously will help assure a brighter future. It is like awaking from a tormented dream.

Regretfully, our paranormalist community is contracting. Survival research seems limited to just a few small groups now. Mostly, we are slipping into a para-New Age Culture. I write this update as an effort to help focus you on where we could be going. I deeply appreciate that you have taken time to consider this Update.

Please feel free to open a discussion, ask a question or comment on the idea Exchange at coop.ethericstudies.org/.

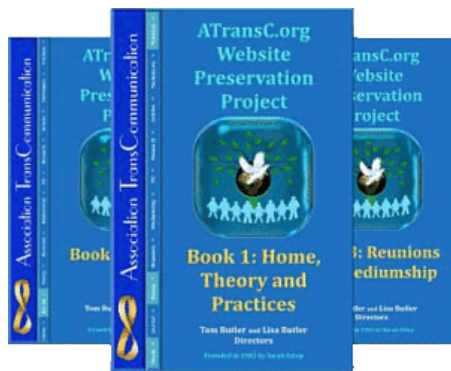
May you and your family be safe, healthy and live in a humanist Democracy.

Tom Butler

ATransC.org

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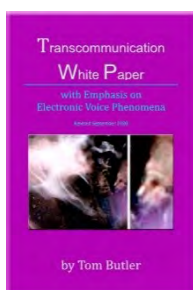
tombutler@ethericstudies.org



ATransC.org Website Preservation Project

These books are a set containing the Association TransCommunication website pages. The set has been compiled to preserve website contents to help assure that future paranormalists will have access to the material. The website includes study and research reports, examples of ITC, techniques for collecting ITC, Best Practices and personal stories about ITC-related reunions. ATransC.org will continue to be available to the public, but will be discontinued when the Directors are no longer able to maintain the pages.

[Exclusively on Amazon](#)



Transcommunication White Paper with Emphasis on Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP)

The *Transcommunication White Paper* is intended to document what is currently known by the ATransC directors about transcommunication. It includes background information about theory, concepts and techniques that are important for the understanding of phenomena related to EVP-ITC, psychic and mediumistic phenomena.

Please note that there is a version of this paper, including a free downloadable PDF, at atransc.org.

I refer people to the *Transcommunication White Paper* five or six times a week. When I do so, I always wish I had the opportunity to explain the importance of personal development.

The three most important points I would make about personal development are concerned with how we think, the effect of how we think on what we experience and how to apply that knowledge toward becoming more self-aware. See [the web page](#).

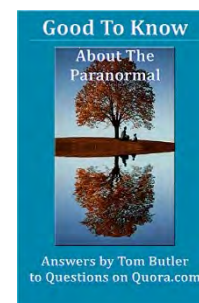
This little book includes all of that. [The book is exclusively available on Amazon](#)

Good to Know About the Paranormal

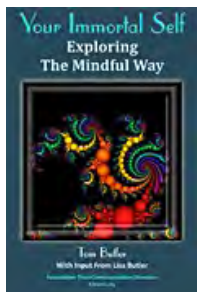
Many of you know that I have spent a lot of time answering questions about things paranormal on Quora.com. The first was the 2017 question: "How accurate is EVP recordings?"

I have been answering the questions because most of the other answers are simply wrong, anti-paranormal or misleading. Our community is still developing a culture that supports free discovery and meaningful sharing of ideas. It has been my vision that my answers might somehow aid in developing that culture.

As it turns out, I have answered quite a lot of Quora.com questions. I have compiled 240 of my answers into this book. See [the web page](#). The book is exclusively available on [Amazon](#)



Your Immortal Self, exploring the mindful way



More time became available for me to write after we changed the ATransC away from a member-supported organization. I am a theoretician by nature and speaking as a mystic, I see a world of patterns in the play of concepts, rather than as a “nuts and bolts” world.

It has been natural for me to see ITC as a pattern of interacting concepts. Again, as a mystic, it is as if the pattern is a self-organizing model in my mind’s eye that shows me how one phenomenon relates/compares to another.

In my mind, the most important aspect of these phenomena is the way we are part of the dance ... not as humans, but as immortal personalities. It has been through ITC, especially EVP, that I have come to see our actual nature as a conduit for the formation of the speech and images of ITC in our physical devices.

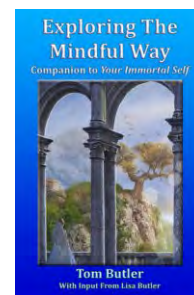
Your Immortal Self represents an effort to explain our relationship with these phenomena, the nature of our actual self and how we might learn to be better ITC practitioners by being more successful seekers. The book begins with a comprehensive effort to define the Survival Hypothesis and establish verifiable proof.

For a small fee, the PDF version of this book is available on the [Lulu website](#). I like PDF for this book because it has so many internal links. It is easier to study using a PDF file. See [the web page](#). [On Amazon](#)

Exploring the Mindful Way

I have been told that *Your Immortal Self* is a difficult read. While I understand some of the concepts can be obscure, I wrote this in *Your Immortal Self*:

Not trying to understand this material because it is too complicated is unacceptable. There is an old Zen Buddhist saying: “Before enlightenment chop wood – carry water, after enlightenment chop wood – carry water.” One must do the work to understand. One must do the work to continue learning. Study the material and do not expect to understand all of it with one reading. Contemplate your worldview. Ask questions. Argue!



I write today to find ways to illustrate the principles described in *Your Immortal Self*, as they apply to particular situations. In doing so, I hoped to make the principles more approachable and help pave the way to spiritual maturity for my readers. *Exploring the Mindful Way* is a compilation of 21 such essays. See [the web page](#). [On Amazon](#)